

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and
daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom.
That night had been foretold to our
ancestors, so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths they had
put their trust in
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your people,
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of
their enemies;
for by the same act with which you took
vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling us to you.
The devout children of worthy men offered
sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck with one
accord:
that the saints would share the same
blessings and dangers alike;
and forthwith they had begun to chant the
hymns of the fathers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 32

Response:

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:1-2.8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
(shorter version)

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that
we hope for, or prove the existence of the
realities that at present remain unseen. It was
for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed
the call to set out for a country that was
the inheritance given to him and his
descendants, and that he set out without
knowing where he was going. By faith he
arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land,
and lived there as if in a strange country, with
Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of
the same promise. They lived there in tents
while he looked forward to a city founded,
designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite
of being past the age, was made able to
conceive, because she believed that he who
had made the promise would be faithful to it.
Because of this, there came from one man,
and one who was already as good as dead
himself, more descendants than could be
counted, as many as the stars of heaven or
the grains of sand on the seashore.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-48

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

>Jesus said to his disciples: < "There is
no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has
pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

"Sell your possessions and give alms.
Get yourselves purses that do not wear out,
treasure that will not fail you, in heaven
where no thief can reach it and no moth
destroy it. For where your treasure is, there
will your heart be also.

>"See that you are dressed for action and
have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for
their master to return from the wedding feast,
ready to open the door as soon as he comes
and knocks. Happy those servants whom the
master finds awake when he comes. I tell you
solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them
down at table and wait on them. It may be in
the second watch he comes, or in the third,
but happy those servants if he finds them
ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if
the householder had known at what hour the
burglar would come, he would not have let
anyone break through the wall of his house.
You too must stand ready, because the Son
of Man is coming at an hour you do not
expect."<

Peter said, "Lord, do you mean this parable
for us, or for everyone?" The Lord replied,
"What sort of steward, then, is faithful and
wise enough for the master to place him over
his household to give them their allowance
of food at the proper time? Happy that
servant if his master's arrival finds him at

this employment. I tell you truly, he will place
him over everything he owns. But as for the
servant who says to himself, 'My master
is taking his time coming,' and sets about
beating the menservants and the maids, and
eating and drinking and getting drunk, his
master will come on a day he does not expect
and at an hour he does not know. The master
will cut him off and send him to the same fate
as the unfaithful.

"The servant who knows what his master
wants, but has not even started to carry out
those wishes, will receive very many strokes
of the lash. The one who did not know, but
deserves to be beaten for what he has done,
will receive fewer strokes. When a man has
had a great deal given him, a great deal will
be demanded of him; when a man has had a
great deal given him on trust, even more will
be expected of him."

>The Gospel of the Lord. <

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,

the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored

and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of
your Church,

for in your mercy you have given them to be
offered

and by your power you transform them
into the mystery of our salvation.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the communion in your Sacrament
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,

and confirm us in the light of your truth.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

(LK 12:32-48)

Today's Gospel is quite detailed and contains a number of instructions from Jesus on wealth, possessions and power.

The parable of the Rich Fool was last week's reflection and Jesus spoke in the harshest of terms about people who store wealth and make it their heart's desire. Likewise today, Jesus asks the disciples where their treasure really is? Do they see themselves as heirs to the Kingdom of God or are they only interested in the external trappings of office? The genuine servant will always be watchful and attentive to the Master's imminent arrival and when the Master arrives, he will put on an apron and serve the servant. We as readers can see how Jesus is bringing them into contemplation on the relationship between God and his followers.

We move then into a parable about two servants. One servant takes advantage of his Master's delay in arriving and he becomes like a dictator, ordering his fellow servants around, bullying them perhaps. But Jesus states unequivocally that he will be exposed when the Master returns unexpectedly. What about the other servant? Well he is the perfect example of attentiveness and respect. He's not only faithful to the task given to him, but he cares for the household with diligence and treats his fellow servants well. Some scripture scholars think that although this was an instruction or catechesis directed to the disciples, it was really meant for the leaders of the church. Leaders are not placed in authority to feather their own nest and act like dictators. They must be at the service of the people of God. The final parable offers an image of another kind of servant. This person has been given a certain amount of authority and power but he's lazy and never actually gets around to doing what is required of him. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded." ■

REFLECT

Fear is the most basic problem in the Bible and the disciples in many ways had good reason to be fearful, especially of the Jewish authorities, who looked upon their work as a threat to the order of things in society. Quite often from Jesus, we hear "Do not be afraid" as a message of consolation to his followers and to us, the listeners. We're as much part of these Gospel stories as the disciples are. The Gospel opens with a phrase that is the essence of the spiritual life. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom." There are two key elements of reflection here. Firstly, God, the source of all things, our creator, is telling us not to be afraid. There is little doubt that as the people of God who sit before the Gospels Sunday after Sunday, we carry personal fears and anxieties within us. We may or may not express these in our conversations with God, but the fears are there. Why is God telling us not to be afraid of these things? Because secondly, God wants to give us life. God wants us to know that his love comes first and everything else flows from that. This is what the church calls 'God's grace'. We don't really have to do anything to receive this love. There is no charge or payment or duty to be performed. The love of God is freely given. The fear we might be feeling is placed into the hands of God and in return we receive love, understanding and peace of mind. Jesus is persistent in his message to the disciples on God's grace. ■

SAY

O Lord, you have given me all that I am and all I possess. I place them all into your hands and help me to use them for your greater glory.

LEARN

We have been promised a share in the kingdom of God.

It is a treasure that nothing can destroy.

We are entrusted with earthly wealth to use for the greater glory of God.

DO

During this week, think about how you use the wealth and the talents God has given you. Is he calling you to use them better?

